



TESTING *for* PEASE

Dr. Patrick Breysee
Director ATSDR
4770 Buford Hwy NE
Atlanta, GA 30341

Secretary Alex M Azar II
Secretary US Department of HHS
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

June 3, 2018

Re: PFAS Health Report

Dear Dr. Breysee and Secretary Azar,

We write to you today to request the immediate release of the ATSDR health report on PFAS that has been ready for release since January of 2018 and is currently being withheld from the public. It is our understanding from media reports and Dr. Breysee's participation on a panel at the EPA National PFAS Summit in D.C. last month that the report is being withheld as the government works on the messaging of the report and the concerns for a "public relations nightmare."

This report contains critical information that impacts public health and it imperative that the report is released to the community immediately. Scientists have estimated that millions of Americans across our nation have drinking water contaminated with both low and high levels of PFAS. It has also been reported in many places that this ATSDR report will recommend lower levels of PFAS than the current EPA Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt to prevent health effects in humans. Americans have the right to see this government generated report (funded by our tax dollars) immediately so appropriate action can be taken to prevent ongoing exposure to these dangerous contaminants.

You have a duty in your current roles to protect public health and we call on you today to do your job by releasing this report now. The news of this report being withheld was announced almost two weeks ago and covered by multiple media outlets. Our Congressional Delegation in New Hampshire wrote a strongly worded letter calling for the immediate release of the study on May 14, 2018, when the news first broke and there has been no public response from the federal government on a timeline of when the community can expect to read this report. Other political leaders from across the country have also called for the immediate release of the study, but it has yet to be released. The lack of immediate action in releasing the report and communicating to the public as to when to expect the report is completely unacceptable and irresponsible coming from a public agency designed to protect the health of Americans.

As personally impacted community members, we can assure you that the withholding of this very important information is disheartening and infuriating. Our families health are at risk due to their prior and ongoing PFAS exposure through contaminated drinking water and we deserve to see this report immediately and have access to this scientific information that can protect the health of our loved ones.

We expect the utmost integrity from our government officials and this is an example of the government failing the public. You have the authority to release the report and we ask that you do it immediately despite pressure from other governmental agencies to withhold the information. Please do not let politics, pressure, and the fear of a "public relations nightmare" get in the way of serving and protecting the health of millions of Americans across this country.

Our "nightmare" of drinking contaminated water laced with manmade chemicals that do not biodegrade in our environment, build up in our body for years, and are associated with multiple adverse health effects are the reality we and millions of Americans are living with everyday. The government has a scientific report that will support lower standards and help to prevent additional exposure to these harmful contaminants and we expect you to take the position that public health and safety takes priority over public relations and messaging. This report contains extremely important scientific information. We call on you to release the study now.

Sincerely,

Andrea Amico, Testing for Pease Co-founder, ATSDR Pease CAP Member
Alayna Davis, Testing for Pease Co-founder, ATSDR Pease CAP Member
Michelle Dalton, Testing for Pease Co-founder, ATSDR Pease CAP Member
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